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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/785,211

02/24/2004

Robert M. Lofthus

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10/18/2006

Patrick R. Roche
FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN, MINNICH & Mc KEE, LLP
Seventh Floor
1100 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114-2579

EXAMINER

NICHOLSON III, LESLIE AUGUST

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3651

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/785,211	LOFTHUS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Leslie A. Nicholson III	3651	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,7,16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4,6,8-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2,4,6,8-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Oath/Declaration

2. The declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 filed 9/29/2006 has been received and accepted. Therefore, all previous claim rejections as being unpatentable over Jackson 2003/0002447 are hereby withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1,3,5,7,16 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest "...a first of the sheet outputs areas being adjacent the first angularly spaced side of the plane and a second of said sheet outputs areas being adjacent the second angularly spaced side of the plane..." in combination with the newly added limitations (added in the reply filed 9/29/2006) of claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2,4,6,8-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jorg USP 5,810,346 in view of Graushar USP 5,100,116 and Jackson USP 5,634,636.

Jorg discloses a method and system that includes:

- feeding sheets to a plurality of respective input areas (A,B,C,D) of a printed sheet interface system
- a plurality of sheet processing systems (114)
- transporting the printed sheets from the input areas to a plurality of outputs areas (F,G) with a sheet transport system
- sensing a position, with a sheet position sensing system (220) of the sheets during transporting

Jorg discloses all the limitations of the claim, but it does not disclose printing sheets on a plurality of printers, or a plurality of spaced, independently operable sheet transports that provide selectable merging, translation, and rotation.

Graushar teaches a method that includes printing sheets on a plurality of printers (C4/L45-56) for the purpose of personalizing documents sent to customers (C1/L10-15).

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ a method that includes printing sheets on a plurality of printers, as taught by Graushar, in the system and method of Jorg, for the purpose of personalizing documents sent to customers.

Jackson teaches a plurality of spaced, independently operable sheet transports that provide selectable merging, translation, and rotation, whereby a sheet transported between a first of the input areas and a first of the output areas crosses a path of a sheet transported between a second of the input areas and a second of the outputs areas for the purpose of modifying paper movement or orientation to nearly instantaneously correct for discrepancies in the motion state of the paper, including its position, orientation, trajectory, velocity, flexure, or curvature (C2/L35-45).

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ a plurality of spaced, independently operable sheet transports that provide selectable merging, translation, and rotation, whereby a sheet transported between a first of the input areas and a first of the output areas crosses a path of a sheet transported between a second of the input areas and a second of the outputs areas, as taught by Jackson, in the system and method of Jorg, for the purpose of modifying paper movement or orientation to nearly instantaneously correct for discrepancies in the motion state of the paper, including its position, orientation, trajectory, velocity, flexure, or curvature.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leslie A. Nicholson III whose telephone number is 571-272-5487. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30 AM - 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Crawford can be reached on 571-272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

L.N.
10/12/2006


GENE O. CRAWFORD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER